

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 15-18 for not reciting further action steps. The Applicant has amended claims 15-18 to positively recite method steps.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12, 13 and 19-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Borgmeier. To anticipate a claim, the cited reference must disclose every claim limitation either expressly or inherently. The claims have been amended to recite a tip that is attached to a stop such that stop limits an insertion depth of the tip. The stop performs an important function in preventing excessive penetration into the cornea. The stop is inserted into an inner channel of a body is in contact with a mechanical stop.

Borgmeier does not disclose a stop with the characteristics recited in the claims. Borgmeier discloses a tip 16 with an end portion 50 having a keyway 52 that engages a widen portion 72 of sleeve 60. The portion of the tip that makes contact with the widen portion 72 is not a stop which limits an insertion depth of a tip as recited in the claims of the above entitled application. The portion of the tip 50 that engages the widen portion 72 is the proximal end of the tip. End 50 does not limit an insertion depth of the tip. Although Borgmeier discloses an outer tip sleeve, the sleeve does not engage the widened portion 72. For all of the above reasons, the Applicant submits that Borgmeier does not anticipate the pending claims of the above entitled application.

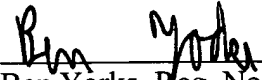
In view of the above, it submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12, 13, and 15-28 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

IRELL & MANELLA LLP

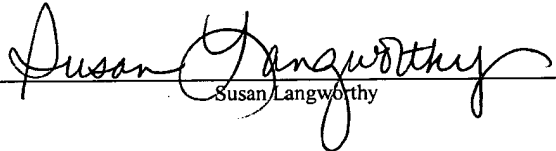
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